Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

Spring - 1989

N E W S L E T T E R

Spring - Summer Calendar

April 30 - Spring Meeting - 3:00 P.M. - Suffolk Museum

May 6 - Riddick's Folly Tour - James River area

May 29 - Annual Memorial Day Observance
Cedar Hill Cemetery entrance - 11:00 A.M.

May 30 - Historical Society Annual Business Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

June 3 - Society tour in Hertford County, N.C.

July - "America Takes to the Road" - exhibit at
Riddick's Folly sponsored by Suffolk Nansemond Historical Society

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IN MEMORIAL

Ann Hargrave Burton, charter member and past president of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society, died on February 23, 1989. Her contributions to the City of Suffolk and its citizens will continue as testimony to her commitment to education and historic preservation.

As a history teacher at Suffolk High School, she established a standard of excellence for colleagues and students. Through her teaching and community involvement, Ann encouraged others to appreciate the people and events of the past. As a participant in the Suffolk Bicentennial Celebration, she wrote the book, History of Suffolk and Nansemond County Virginia, which is an important resource for students. In recent years, the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society donated copies of this book to all the school libraries in Suffolk. Ann's influence on our knowledge of the history of Suffolk expands beyond the scope of this book because of the many programs about Suffolk history that she presented to school children and adults.

She supported the preservation of the past through her active participation in the renovation of Riddick's Folly. She served as a member of the Board of Directors of Riddick's Folly,

as chairman of the Acquisitions Committee and as a participant in a variety of other activities which helped maintain the goal of preservation of the house.

Ann Hargrave Burton's intellect and commitment to her community have enriched our lives and those of future generations.

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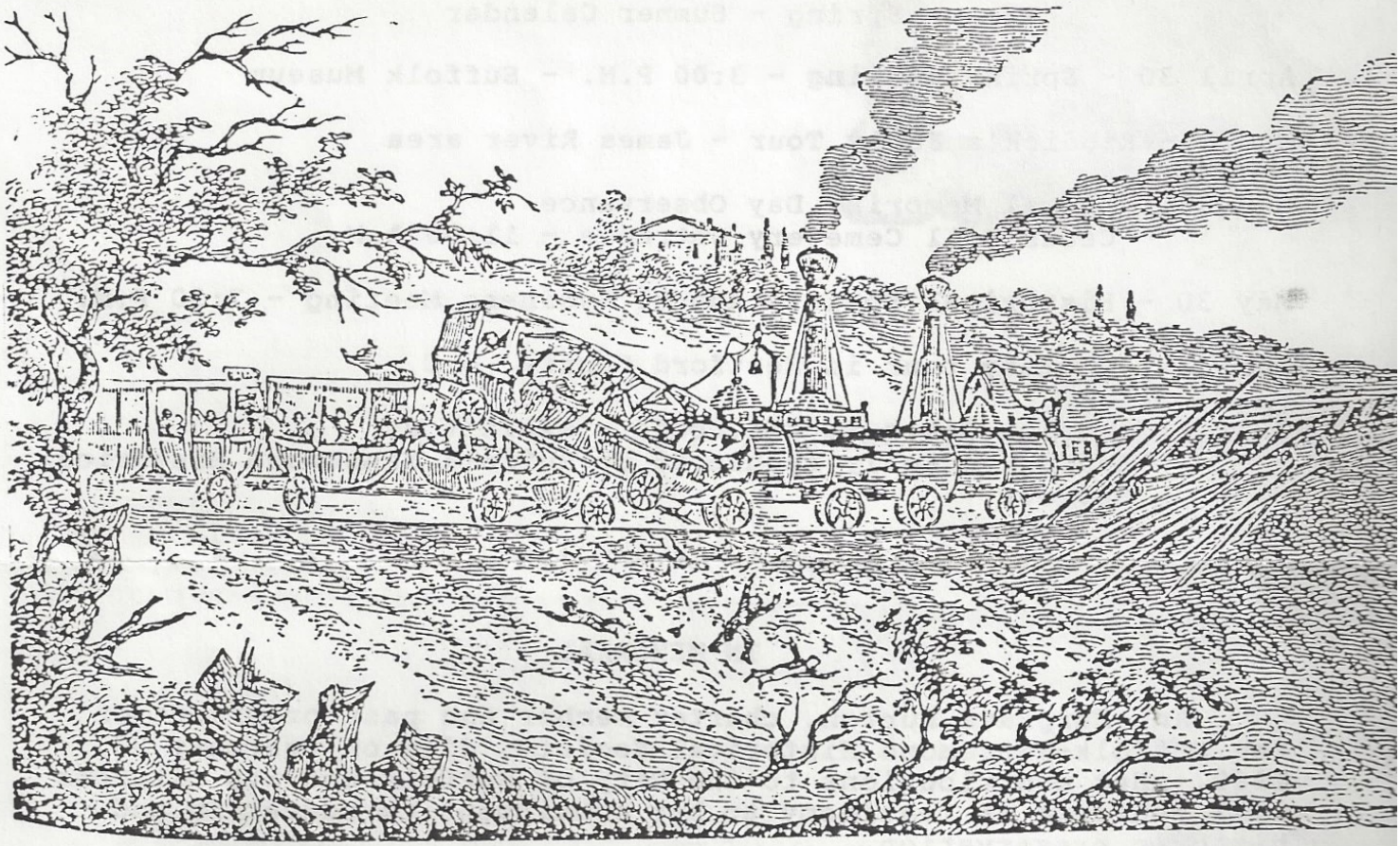

Suffolk was the site of one of the most tragic accidents in the early history of railroading. On a morning in August 1837, a passenger train from Portsmouth ran head-on into a freight train loaded with lumber. Three ladies were killed and 140 others were injured in the collision. This engraving published in 1840, shows the collision. The home of Richard F. Goodwin in the background served as a temporary hospital for the casualties.

-from Suffolk - A Pictorial History by Hobbs and Paquette

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APRIL MEETING

On April 30, Sunday, at 3 P.M., the Historical Society will present a program called, "Suffolk Railroads, then and Now."

The presentation will be at the Suffolk Museum and will include a slide show (viewing) put together by James D. "Jim" Curtin, who is on the board of directors of the Tidewater Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

Attend after church. It's free and it will be exciting to learn some new things about Suffolk's old times. Bring a friend. Refreshments will be served!

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On the road again -

SUFFOLK-NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY DAY TRIP

On Saturday, June 3, five nineteenth century homes in Hertford County, N.C., will be open for our benefit and enjoyment.

* Wynnewood Plantation is the home of Dr. and Mrs. O. W. Pittman and has always belonged to Mrs. Pittman's family. This is also the birthplace of G. Washington Bear and Mrs. Pittman is his creator. (G. Washington Bear is sold in the Riddick's Folly Gift Shop.)

* Green Plains is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Larry S. Overton. This house belonged to Hope Plantation in Windsor and was moved to this site at Wynnewood Plantation. The charming home is complimented by an English-style garden where lunch will be served for us by members of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church.

* The Newbern House is on the same family farm as the first two houses and was also moved from another location. The original house was built in the Federal style; later an imposing Greek Revival wing was added on the front. Owners are Mr. and Mrs. Tom Newbern.

* The King Parker farm house was built by the owner's great grandfather. Of particular note is the marbleized woodwork and false stone walls recently restored by artisans from Greensboro, N.C.

* The Gingerbread House in Murfreesboro, N.C. is a small Victorian with delightful exterior wood trim that gives the house its name. Located in an interesting neighborhood of restored homes, this is a wonderful final stop on our tour.

Call Riddick's Folly - 934-1390 - for information and reservations.

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We are grateful for the following contributions:

In memory of Ann H. Burton:
Mr. and Mrs. Hubert H. Young
Judge and Mrs. R. D. Hunter, III
The Suffolk Book Club

In honor of Mrs. Marion J. Watson and in gratitude for all that she does for those who want to know more about history:
Mr. and Mrs. Austin T. Darden

For the Lafayette Party:
Mr. Boyd Quate
Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Rawles

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Riddick's Folly Tour

On Saturday, May 6, Riddick's Folly is sponsoring a day trip to sites along the James River. The itinerary will include stops at Berkley Plantation, Westover Church, and Smith's Fort, as well as a stop for lunch at Indian Fields Tavern, a ride on the Jamestown Ferry, and a stretch break at the church ruins near Bacon's Castle. The fee of $22.50 for Riddick's Folly newsletter subscribers and $25.00 for others includes all admissions, lunch, and transportation costs. One van is already filled, but if there is enough demand, another van will be chartered. If you would like more information, or would like to make a reservation, call Rebecca Ritter at 934-1390.

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Three hundred visitors came to Riddick's Folly for the 1988 Candlelight Tour, and over 1,000 people visited the museum during the month of December to enjoy the Historical Society's exhibit.

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The anniversary of the 1825 visit of the Marquis de Lafayette was marked by a return of the great man, at least in spirit. To celebrate his stop in Suffolk, the Historical Society hosted a dinner in honor of the great French general. Delayed for one day due to heavy snowfall, the party began with cocktails and period music at

Hubert Young's office, which stands on the site of the Castle Inn, where Lafayette stayed during his visit. The guests then processed to Riddick's Folly, where the festivities continued in the English basement. The Marquis, played by The Honorable James Godwin, toasted the prosperous future of the United States and a long friendship with France. Forty-five guests participated in the February 26th event. It is hoped that the great man will return for a similar celebration next year.

Each guest at the dinner received a copy of our newly published General Lafayette Visits Suffolk, Virginia complied by Marion Watson. Copies of this booklet are available in the Riddick's Folly Gift Shop for $3.00 each.

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Summer Exhibit

During July and August the Society will have an exhibit at Riddick's Folly entitled "America Takes to the Road." This will be about the early days of America's love affair with the automobile. Jim Moore will be in charge of this exhibit. If you have pictures, gas station signs, dusters, goggles, etc. - please call Jim at 934-1313 or 539-8288. What fun!

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Business Meeting

Please plan to attend our annual business meeting on Tuesday, May 30th, 7:30 P.M. on the ground floor of Riddick's Folly. It is time to elect new officers. Please plan to attend.

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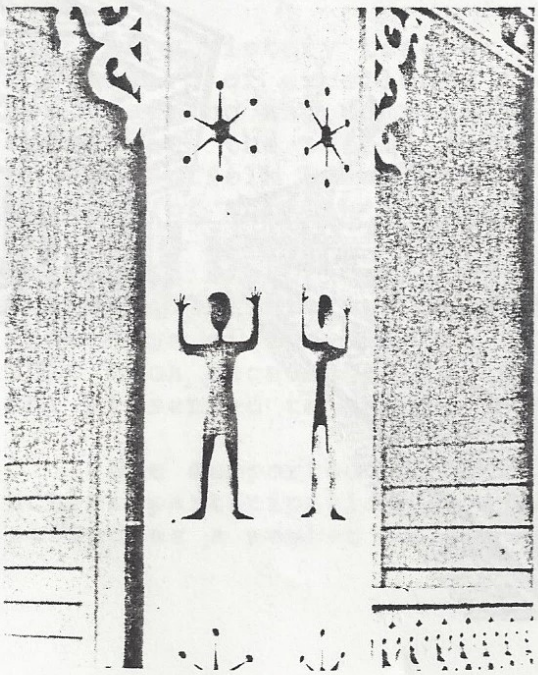
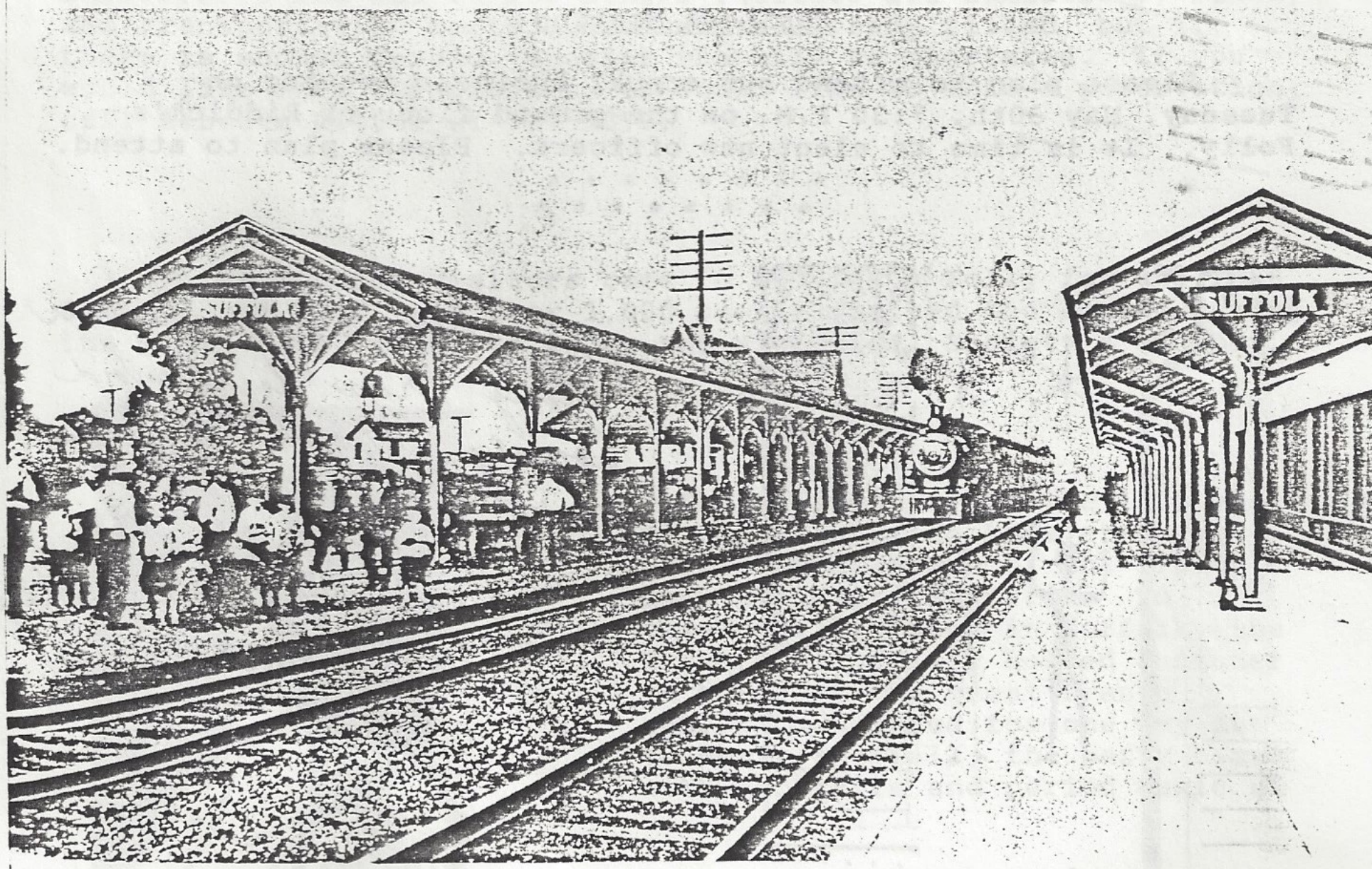


Gingerbread House Detail

Don't forget our day trip to Hertford County, North Carolina, on June 3rd.

Call Riddick's Folly (934-1390) for details.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